Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1999-2000

Saskatchewan
Justice

Public
Disclosure
Committee

Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal 2
Staff 3
Role of the Committee 3

Committee Hearings

Applications made to the Committee 4

Activities of the Committee

Meetings 4
Processing the Applications 5
Committee Budget 5

Letter of Transmittal

Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
Government House
4607 Dewdney Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V7

Dear Madam:

Pursuant to section 12 of *The Public Disclosure Act*, I am pleased to present the Public Disclosure Committee Annual Report for the period of April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000. This Annual Report was submitted to me by the Public Disclosure Committee.

Chris Axworthy, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Public Disclosure Committee - Staff

D. Mitchell Crumley
Janis Bohlken

The Committee maintains an office at:

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Role of the Committee

The public has concerns about dangerous offenders who have been released into communities after serving some or all of their sentence. One response to these concerns is to raise public awareness about a particular individual by providing information about the offender to affected individuals or communities.

The Public Disclosure Act was developed to assist the police in dealing with this important issue. The legislation was proclaimed in force November 15, 1996, and created a committee to provide non-binding advice to the police about persons who may pose a danger to the community.

On November 15, 1996, a nine-member committee was appointed to serve pursuant to the Act. The committee is presently chaired by a pastor and co-chaired by a victims worker.

Committee members include:
- a former Court of Queen's Bench Justice (past-chair);
- senior officers with the RCMP, Regina and Saskatoon Police Services;
- a psychologist;
- a victims services director;
- an aboriginal woman who has worked extensively with healing offenders, victims and communities; and
- a lawyer.

The committee is composed of one member from Moose Jaw, one member from White City and one member from Prince Albert, and three members from each of Saskatoon and Regina.

Police may bring applications with respect to persons who have been convicted of one of the offences prescribed in section 3 of the Regulations and who pose a risk of serious harm to persons in a community in Saskatchewan.

The scheduled offences include:
- sexual offences against children;
- sexual assaults;
- other sexual offences like bestiality and indecent acts;
- procuring children into prostitution;
- trafficking drugs; and
- serious personal injury offences like robbery, aggravated assault and kidnapping.

Disclosure can only be recommended by the Committee when:
- the individual poses a significant risk of serious harm to other persons;
- the disclosure will assist in avoiding the risk posed by the individual; and
- the public interest in the disclosure outweighs the privacy interests of the individual.

If the release of information is recommended, the committee will also recommend what information should be released, how it should be released and to whom.

Decisions of the committee are carefully considered and are based on a review of information prescribed by the Act. This information includes such things as:
- risk assessments;
- criminal records;
- likely destinations for the individual;
- descriptions of the offences the individual has committed in the past; and
- reasons the individual is believed to pose a significant risk of harm to others.

Persons that are the subject of an application to the Public Disclosure Committee are advised in advance that an application has been made, and are afforded the opportunity to make submissions to the Committee in writing or on audio or video tape.

The advice given by the Committee does not bind the police agency making the request. However, police acting in compliance with the advice are accorded immunity from suit for their good faith actions in so doing.

Committee Services

The services provided by the committee within the scope of *The Public Disclosure Act* for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2000 are:

Fiscal Year	Number of Applications Received	Disclosure Advised	Disclosure Not Advised
1999-2000	5	3	2

Meetings

Pursuant to section five of *The Public Disclosure Regulations*, the Committee is required to schedule a minimum of one meeting per month. Additional expedited meetings are held when applications are brought of an urgent nature that cannot be held in abeyance until the regularly scheduled meetings.

From April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000, the Committee held 12 regularly scheduled meetings and three expedited meetings.

In December 1996, the Committee held its inaugural meeting in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Committee members participated in a training session on risk assessment provided by Corrections Services Canada. This session was followed by an orientation to the Act and the roles and responsibilities of the committee. Members were also advised of their express obligation of confidentiality.

There was also an explanation of the security issues this position presents. Given that the committee will be dealing with some of the potentially most dangerous persons in the province, certain precautions have been taken to protect committee members from harm. These include, but are not limited to, a specific request made by the Minister of Justice on announcing the legislation that the press not publish the identities or identifying information about committee members.

At the November and December 1998 meetings of the committee, additional training in risk assessment and the recidivism of offenders was provided to committee members to help them in considering the applications brought before the Committee.

Providing Information to Police Services and the RCMP about the Committee

On November 15, 1996, Committee staff provided a package of information to all provincial police services and the RCMP. In January 1997, Committee members and staff provided a one-half day presentation to designated police representatives. The sessions were held in Regina and Saskatoon. The presentation was designed to acquaint representatives with how to prepare and file applications with the Committee.

Representatives from the RCMP and the Municipal Police Services act as liaison between the committee and their organizations, guaranteeing that these agencies are well aware of the application process.

Processing the Applications

Of the five applications received, three requested and were granted expedited consideration pursuant to subsection 15(1) of *The Public Disclosure Regulations*. In all cases, the person who was the subject of the application received notice of the application. In three cases, these offenders made representations to the Committee.

Offender profiles:

- All of the persons that were the subject of applications were male.
- Three offenders were over the age of 35 at the time of application.
- All had been convicted of at least three scheduled sexual offences.
- Four had been assessed at a significant to high risk to sexually re-offend.
- The victims of three of the offenders were between the ages of six and 14.
- All had offended against three or more victims in the past.
- Four had been between the ages of 16 and 25 when first convicted of a criminal offence.
- Three offenders were required to serve all of their sentences before being released from jail.
- Three offenders were in the community at the time an application was made. Two were awaiting release into the community from jail at the time the application was made.
- One offender was diagnosed with paedophilia, another with paedophilic tendencies and a third with antisocial personality disorder.

Committee Budget

The expenses of the committee were absorbed into the budget of the Saskatchewan Police Commission. These expenses totalled $5,717.88 and supported the costs of the Committee meetings and hearings.

The Law Enforcement Services Branch of Saskatchewan Justice provided administrative support to the Committee.